



A Lighthouse of HOPE...reaching, caring, teaching & sharing; united to reflect God's Love to ALL.

Winchester United Methodist Church

Rev. Robin R. Lyons
20 N. Walnut St. Winchester, IL 62694
Phone: 217-742-3610

e-mail: robinr.lyons@frontier.com
church e-mail: winchesterumc@frontier.com
Web Page: Winchesterilumc.org

July 16, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers In Christ,

May the Peace, Presence and Grace of our Lord Jesus continue to surround each of you this day!

Where We Are

Week by week, I have tried to keep our WUMC Parish in the loop, with weekly progress reports and how we are meeting our goals for coming back together as a Church, in worship and fellowship, as set forward by our IGRC leaders. After four (long) months, we resumed In Person Worship (limited to 50 in the Sanctuary) last Sunday! We had 34 in attendance in the Sanctuary, with almost everyone having their own PEW! We observed all protocols and safety regulations, and I thank all of you who came out for your utmost cooperation, support and spirit of sensitivity and respect for others. It was so GREAT to hear Shawn Ford play the piano for us again. She never missed a beat, and the melodies were refreshing, comforting and inspiring! (Normalcy returning!)

I want to remind you that we are back offering the Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am for those who feel comfortable in returning to In Person Worship. We are allowed to have 50 people in attendance, following Church Protocols of course. In order that we have an idea of how close we get to that 50 in attendance mark, we are asking everyone who wants to attend Worship to make a reservation by either calling the Church Office (742-3610) or clicking on the LINK on our WUMC Webpage (winchesterilumc.org).

Service Broadcast Update

For those who are hesitant to return to In Person Worship, we are still offering the Worship Service Broadcast for you to view in the comfort of your own home. There will be one, slight change coming up concerning the Broadcasts. ***Beginning on SUNDAY, JULY 26, our Worship Broadcast will not be completed and available for viewing until after 2:00pm each Sunday.*** Our Broadcast Team will combine some pre-corded music videos, which in turn will be included in the actual 9:00am Worship Service recording. By going this route, we will be able to include our Pianist, Shawn Ford as part of the Service Broadcast. The Team will put this production together following Sunday School each Sunday. *(The exception will be First Sunday of the Month Communion Sundays, when Broadcasts will still be recorded on Saturday morning for early Sunday viewing.)* Like everything else these days, it may take us a few tries to get this in the form we want, so your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated!

Closing Remarks

We've been in this coronavirus era for five months now, with more months most certainly to come. I remember writing early on, that this virus has a control of its own, but how we respond and behave and live every day is still up to each of us. It can bring out the best in people, and we certainly have seen that happen in many places. It can bring out the worst in us as well, and unfortunately, we have seen in the news, images of behavior that is rude, disrespectful and even violent. All the more reason that we remember WHO WE ARE on a daily basis: Christ's ambassadors, called to bring the Light of love and hope to a world of darkness and loneliness. Still, we are not exempt from experiencing trying days, which bring feelings of sadness, weariness, worry, and at some level, even depression. Remember strength and encouragement comes in the voices and memories of those we love. Gratitude, kindness and helping others also serve to help us get through this crisis. I leave you with these words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah, who was also addressing the Covenant People in dark times: *"but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* (Is. 40:31)

You are always in my daily prayers! Let's continue to keep praying that God will bring a healing of body and Spirit in our land. Please stay strong in Christ's Love, and be kind and help others when you can. Remember: God desires to bring out the best in each of us, for His glory. KEEP FAITH!

In Christ's Love and Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Robin Lyons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Robin Lyons
Pastor